

The Glass Ceiling Was Cracked—What’s Our Plan to Break It?

*Led by **Amy K. Dacey**, former CEO of the Democratic National Committee and Executive Director of EMILY’s List*

Mondays | 4:30 - 5:45 PM | Harvard IOP

In two months, more women will be elected to office during the 2018 midterms than ever before in our history- this group will discuss how we got there, what is happening this cycle and what comes next.

Women still don’t have parity in elected office in the United States. Yes, we have come a long way, but what are the barriers that remain and how do we break through? We will talk about the progress made and the obstacles that remain. Looking at the parity issue from many different angles: money, media, technology, organizational decision makers, outreach to voters, and the policies we create, are we advancing women? Are we creating an environment where gender won’t matter anymore in elections and voters perceive the female candidates are the most qualified?

This study group promises to look at these questions with a new perspective, ensure inclusiveness and encourage men to come as part of the conversation.

Myself, and prominent guest speakers will delve deeper and identify issues that affect women and elections. As a former campaign manager, Executive Director of EMILY’s List and CEO of the Democratic Party, I have seen firsthand when women aren’t seated at the table or in a decision-making role how it affects us all. Is the strong women’s movement we are experiencing now making our voices stronger? More respected? Is the glass half full or half empty?

We will also have a case study of one of the 2018 races. We will review the current status of the race and include updates from the field.

Join me in taking-a-look at all the factors that contribute to the current percentages of women serving in our federal, state and local government, and even around the world. **Don’t miss this opportunity to be part of one of the most important elections in our history!**

Week 1 — September 17 — Let’s Get This Started! Who We Are & How We Got Here.

This session will cover a history of women in politics and a review of where we are today in federal, state, local and even international arenas. We will discuss how the current environment in DC is affecting elections in the states and challenging for women candidates. We will examine some case studies of the highest profile women running in 2018.

Week 2— September 24 —What is Everyone Talking About? EVERY Issue Is a Women’s Issue.

Taking a deep dive approach, we will evaluate the issues that are driving the conversation in 2018: immigration, economic crisis, health care, the opioid epidemic, the Women’s March, #MeToo, the March for our Lives, and other events and issues of the day- From the marches in the streets to the voices sharing their stories, will the outrage and call for a change directly play out at the voting booth?

Confirmed Speaker: Anna Greenberg has over 15 years of experience polling in the political, non-profit and academic sectors. She joined GQRR in 2001, after teaching public opinion and survey research methodology at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. She was the lead pollster in many successful campaigns including for Mayor Bill de Blasio, Governor Tom Wolf, Governor Mark Dayton, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Congressman Ron Barber and Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham. In 2014, Greenberg won the “Pollster of the Year” award from the AAPC for her work with Mayor Bill de Blasio’s campaign for mayor of New York City.

Week 3 — October 1 — Women in the Digital Age

Social media and the use of the Internet influence everything in our life. How has the rise of technology and new forms of communication directly impacted women in campaigns, from many perspectives: candidate, operative and voter. Also, how does the culture in Silicon Valley influence this in practice?

Speaker : TBD

Week 4 — October 11 (Thursday)— Nothing to See Here? Women and the Media

How is the media influencing how we perceive women candidates and their campaigns? Does fake news disproportionately affect women running for office? As the role of media is changing and coming under fire, traditional means of communication are being scrutinized. We will discuss the role of media in communicating messages.

Confirmed Speaker: Stephanie Cutter is the founding partner of Precision Strategies, a leading communications, digital, and data targeting consulting firm in Washington D.C. and New York City. Called “one of the most prominent voices in the [Democratic] party, and one of its top strategists and crisis managers” by Politico, Stephanie has crafted high-level communications, reputation and crisis-management strategies for two U.S. Presidents, U.S. Senate leaders, and the nation’s highest profile political campaigns and Fortune 500 corporations. The New York Times called her “the polished, sometimes scarily organized strategist who gets things done” who “has a long and favorable reputation with some of the most influential journalists and opinion makers in Washington.” GQ named her one of “the 50 most powerful people in Washington.”

Stephanie served as Deputy Campaign Manager for President Barack Obama’s 2012 re-

election campaign, where she played a pivotal role in designing and executing a game-changing campaign that broke barriers in understanding, reaching, and connecting with more Americans than any election in history. Previously, Stephanie served in various senior positions within the Obama administration and campaign, from managing the President's message strategy and issue development in the White House, to serving as First Lady Michelle Obama's Chief of Staff, to counselor to Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner.

Before the Obama administration, Stephanie served as a senior advisor to Minority Leader Harry Reid and Democratic Senator Edward M. Kennedy. In 2004, she served as Communications Director for the John Kerry for President Campaign. She also held various positions within the Clinton Administration, including President Clinton's White House Deputy Communications Director.

Week 5 — October 15 — The Buck Stops Here: Women and Fundraising

Is it really the dollars that are keeping women from running competitive campaigns, and is the rise of the small dollar donor breaking that cycle? What about the role of women as donors? We follow the money to see where, when, and how money in politics determines the gender of our candidates and the makeup of our electoral chambers.

Confirmed Speaker: Katie E. Walsh is an American Republican political operative who briefly served as White House Deputy Chief of Staff for Implementation in the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. She is currently working with the Trump-aligned 501(c)(4) America First Policies. Walsh previously served as the Chief of Staff for the Republican National Committee. She joined the Republican National Committee as deputy Finance Director in January 2013 and became Finance Director in June of that year. In her previous role as Deputy Finance Director for the National Republican Senatorial Committee, she worked with United States Senate campaigns across the country to implement comprehensive fundraising and campaign strategies. Her past experience also includes serving as Midwest Regional Finance Director for the McCain–Palin campaign in 2008 and working for Friends of Fred Thompson, at the Ashcroft Group, and as a field representative for Missourians for Matt Blunt.

Week 6 — October 22 — Is It STILL the Economy Stupid? Women and the Workforce

As the workforce changes (AI, new technologies, automation), what impact does this have on women in office and deciding public policy? From the Boardroom to the shop floor to the tech startup to the halls of Congress – all the economic factors that make women's representation matter.

Speaker: TBD

Week 7 — October 29 — What in the World? Women's Representation around the Globe

As we become more and more intertwined globally, it matters so much who is in elected

office in every country. Why do some countries have high rates of representation; why are others so low? Taking a global perspective we are able to ask the questions we need answered most – are there lessons to be learned here in the States from far-away lands? Which country inspires the most?

Speaker: TBD

Week 8 — November 5/12 — What's Next?

In this final session, we will look ahead to discuss how we will break the glass ceiling. What role will the 2018 election play in reaching that goal? What do we need to do, create, and implement to see the change?